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A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF ADVANCED THOUGHT

17 JAN 1935

EDITOR

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(Joint Editor and Manager)

H. D. RAJAH.

VOL. I OCT. & NOV. 1934 Nos. 5 & 6

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THE NEW AGE

VOL. I OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 1934 NOS. 5 & 6

POVERTY AND BIRTH CONTROL

A. G. Venkatachary.

In the West knowledge of birth control is considered to be a necessary part of personal hygiene and its merits or demerits judged by the individual concerned mainly from a health point of view. The advocates of birth control in our country approach this personal and intimate subject from an economic point of view. It is pointed out by these erstwhile advocates coming mostly from the classes suffering from surfeit that it is the poorer classes that multiply alarmingly and due to their very poor earnings, they are themselves responsible for the continuous decline in their standard of living and the consequent social degeneracy. They shed tears that the bulk of the population who are poor should pursue such a suicidal path and contend that limitation of birth will lead to a higher standard of living and enhanced comfort for the working masses. Is this reasoning sound? Does birth control result in added comforts to these unfortunates? Take the case of France. "Birth Control is practised there on the widest scale, but there has been a continous decline in the standard of comfort of its workers. Poverty and unemployment are as rampant in France as elsewhere.

Furthermore, the argument must be proved to have as its basis the tragic fact that there is a definite shortage of the necessities of life and under the circumstances an indefinitely increasing population would menace the well-being of living humanity. Most decidedly there is to-day no such shortage nor any prospect of it at all. 'Poverty amidst plenty' is the one characteristic of Modern Society. We have been witnessing in recent years and the practice seems to be in no mood to abate, huge quantities of foodstuff being destroyed with the sole aim of keeping up prices. Even before the very eyes of starving millions, wheat is used as a substitute for coal coffee is mixed with tar and used as dump, fish is thrown back into the sea and rubber restriction undertaken on a world scale. The milk trusts of the United States flooded the city drains with milk while millions of working class children pale emaciated, and struggling for their very lives

stood aghast in dismay and despair. Even the progressive Roosevelt did not set his face against such social crimes, but at the behest of Wall Street gave his seal of approval to a scheme of putting huge tracts of land out of production, because the country had been "glutted with agricultural produce." Even the Government of India have been seized with this disease the first tendencies of which were apparent in the resolve of the last Crop planning Conference to restrict the output of rice, the primary food of the Indian masses. With forty millions of unemployed and a large percentage of the population absolutely destitute and never even dreaming of getting one square meal a day, the idea of restriction of output is to say the least anti-human. About eighty per cent of India's teaming millions are either hopelessly poor or bordering on the verge of poverty and these have been denied the luxury of a hearty meal, not to speak of adequate housing and clothing. If there were really a surplus in production after satisfying the urge of hunger (which I challenge any one to prove) it could easily be exchanged for other indispensable commodities and services as habitable dwellings and adequate clothing not to speak of satisfying educational, vocational and other equally important civic wants. But it is an incontrovertible fact that the working classes are unable to purchase goods which are said to be in plenty, because they are too poor to do so. Humanity under the circumstances would only dictate that production of these necessaries of life should be speeded up and made available to the unemployed and to the population capitalistically called surplus. But the Governments rather prefer to go on allowing poverty amidst plenty than help the 'surplus' population to consume the surplus produce. Such a surplus exists in almost every country of the world except the U.S.S.R. These could not be absorbed unless the workers who form everywhere the bulk of society could buy them i.e. until their purchasing power is increased. Restriction of output brings in its wake lesser demand of the workers' labour power which by the way has to give place to technological improvements. So, economic security for the producing masses is absolutely nil under the present social order. Instead of pursuing the only logical and reasonable path that leads us to socialism, the birth-controllers want the working masses to reduce their numbers so that at least in future, they might not embarrass the possessing class.

In a poor country like ours where the average earnings have been estimated at eight pies a day, it is hard enough for a poor working class couple to keep body and soul together. It would indeed be a struggle to rear a family, but it has to be done in the interests of their very existence itself; for, the children might get them additional earnings and serve as guarantees of sustenance during old age, disease or unemployment, all of which notoriously enough have been brushed aside by the Powers-that-be without bestowing any careful thought over it.

The higher classes consider birth control as a matter of 'personal hygiene' or an aesthetic necessity. But it is a 'dodge' to blind the workers, a will-of-the wisp calculated to appeal to sentiments. The root cause of glut in supply is the gruesome poverty of the working class. Their poverty is incurable so long as they are mere wage-slaves. So, birth-control does not and cannot offer economic security and well-being, the basic demands of the working class Eugenics has nothing to do with a purely political malady. Birth control measures may be necessary in individual cases, but to advocate it as a social scheme to end poverty and insecurity is to live in a world of illusions.

Economic security is unattainable under capitalism, which is nothing but systematised extortion and exploitation for profit. The land lords, the feudal aristocracy, the capitalists and the money-lenders all of them creatures and hence the henchmen of Imperialism are collectively responsible for India's tragic plight to-day. All these wrongs are man-made and ought and could be replaced by socialism.

Our lands must be rescued and handed over to the toiling peasantary and the many industries of the country socialised. Private landlordism and usury should go and scientific large-scale farming undertaken. The peasantry are poor because they are rack-rented, or get less than a living wage, the workers are no better for the same reasons and the producing masses are thus virtually the slaves of a negligible section of the population even as one-fifth of the world's populace inhabiting this land have been brought and kept under the yoke of a few thousands of Bureaucrats. Only socialism and not birth control can cure poverty. Production should be arranged in accordance with consumption, profits eliminated and technology made full use of. The surplus in production, if any, could be used to exchange with other commodities and services belonging to the nation. If the producing masses are determined to have socialism they are bound to get it. Though a small class may own all the means of production it is they, the real producers, who are the *de-facto* masters of the situation. When they realise their great and invulnerable strength and use it they are sure to succeed in creating a socialist society. India has, in this connection a message to give to the rest of the world. Let us build really strong mass organisations from even now with an unshakable determination and great consciousness.

SOVIET CHINA

While the advance of the Chinese Red Army and the creation of new Soviet districts in the province of Fukien is in the news, the Press as a whole remains entirely uninformative regarding what happens in those districts which become sovietised. The general idea of the burgeois is of course, that banditry lawlessness and pillage are the main charactistics of the Chinese Soviet regime. But the fact that several large provinces with an immense population have now lived under Soviet rule for more than two years and have defeated no fewer than six large-scale military expeditions sent against them by the Kuomintang Government, is alone enough to make any sensible person reject the bandit theory.

Facts, however, are not too easily come by. But slowly an accumulation of knowledge regarding the aims methods and achievements of the Chinese Soviets is coming into our possession. Broadcasting of this knowledge is essential to the creation of a popular understanding of what is happening in China.

The Central Government

There is a central Government of the Chinese Soviet Republic. It sits in the town of Juikin in the province of Kiangsi, and from there it controls the administration of the Soviet law over a territory of total area more than four times the size of Great Britain. The central Government is a complete organisation of administrative departments, namely: Supreme High Court, Ministry of Inspection of Workers and Peasants, Ministry of Finance Ministry of Land Ministry of Labour, Revolutionary Military Commissariat, Ministry of Home Affairs Bureau of Political Security Ministry of Communications. People's Economic Commissariat, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The League of Nations Commission, which visited China in the spring of 1932 reported on this Government as a serious rival to the power of the Kuomintang—the Government of landlords and Chinese bourgeoisie located at Nanking. It stated then that the Soviet Government existed in an organised form and was carrying on the functions of government in its territory.

That was more than two years ago, and during the interval while waging ceaseless military war against the Kuomintang the Soviet Government has immensely improved and strengthened its internal position. How has the bearing of the dual burden of war and economic and social reconstruction been made possible to a people suffering extreme poverty and lacking nearly all the resources of modern capitalist civilisation?

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The Growth of the Soviets

The process was tersely but graphically described by Mao Tse-tung, President of the Central Executive Committee, at the second Congress of Chinese Soviets at Juikin last January.

"The Soviets" he said, "have grown up out of irregular warfare and by the consolidation of many isolated and small districts. Outside our boundaries is the enemy seeking our destruction. Yet the Soviets have been able to defeat the enemy and have grown up through repeated victories. This is the environment in which the Soviets are developing their fundamental policy.

"The Soviets have been organised into a state, the Soviet Republic of China, which has now its central and local organisations. The central organ, the provisional Central Government, is the nucleus of power which depends upon the masses and their armed force, the Red Army.

"This Government is the power of the workers and peasants themselves. It is the revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the workers and peasants, ever enlarging its influence throughout the country by virtue of the confidence which it inspires among the masses."

The only comment necessary is that the defeat of military expeditions with modern equipment and organised by German staff officers, the extension of the Soviet districts and the wholesale conversion of bodies of the Kuomintang troops to the support of the Soviets are ample evidence of the reality of Mao's claim to the confidence of the masses.

Proletarian Democracy

What is the nature of the regime within the Soviet districts? To quote Mao again.

The Soviet of the workers and peasants is the government of the masses themselves. . . . to the workers and peasants it rules with no iron hand but with wide democracy. The democracy of the Soviet is first of all manifested in its election. The Soviet gives the franchise to all the oppressed and exploited masses regardless of sex. . . .

The method of electing a Chinese Soviet is as follows: the names of the electors are written on a large sheet of red paper. A meeting of these electors, from whom all members of the exploiting classes are excluded, is held. The social composition of the meeting is made up as follows: one from every fifteen workers and their families, and one from every fifty peasants. This is the basis of all the town and village Soviets.

And these bodies, elected on this, the widest possible basis of proletarian democracy, are the starting-point of the process of election by which all the higher organisations up to the Central Executive Committee, are obtained.

Note.—Mao Tse-tung's full report to the Second Congress of Chinese Soviets will shortly be published, with map and notes by Martin Lawrence, Ltd.

The Agrarian Revolution

The Chinese Soviets have grown up out of the agrarian revolution —the struggle of the peasants against the feudalistic system of exploitation which is responsible for their poverty and misery. The rule of the Kuomintang maintains the feudalistic system, with its appallingly high rents, usury and fantastically oppressive taxation. It is estimated that throughout the country under the old regime there are more than 1,700 different kinds of taxes in operation.

The effect of this system is of course, to bind the poor peasants as debt-slaves to the usurers and great landowners. It is reliably stated that the great majority of the peasants in the Kuomintang districts have lost their land. The development of this process in Kiangsi and other provinces now under Soviet rule led to the creation of abnormally large estates and a great mass of landless poverty-stricken peasantry. The Soviet revolution, wiping out at one blow the whole feudal land law of the old regime, came as a new era of liberation to these peasants.

The estates of the great landlords were confiscated in their entirety, debts to usurers wiped out and the division of the land among the poor peasant families begun. This was—and is—a task of great complexity, involving many problems. First comes the question of the classification of the village population and the assessment of claims to land. Here, obviously, troubles are like thorns on a blackberry bush. And the class of *tukhao*, rich peasants who exploit the labour of the poor and landless, are, of course, active in efforts to prevent the distribution of land to the latter.

Mao Tse-tung sums up the lessons of experience in this matter as follows :

> The partition of land and the inspection must be done with the consent and co-operation of the masses of the peasants. The decision as to the class to which any peasant belongs must be made by a mass meeting. To attempt to carry out any of these activities solely through a few Soviet functionaries would involve the danger of reducing the spirit of struggle among the masses themselves. . . .

Rising Production

The results of the application of the Soviet land law in practice speak for themselves, Mao says.

> In the past it was customary for the peasants to live for months of the year on the bark of trees or the husks of grain. This situation no longer exists and there is no more starvation in the Soviet districts.

And a report recently received from the Central Soviet District states :

> Production has increased considerably as a result of the ploughing campaigns introduced by the Soviets. Thus, rice-production in Kiangsi has risen 150 per cent., in the Fukien-Chekiang-Kiangsi Soviet district by 200 per cent or more compared with the previous year.

Fallow land has decreased greatly. More than 2,00,000 mow (33,000 acres) of swampy land were reclaimed last year. Revival has been observed in such industries as iron, clothing, lime, paper, coal, tungsten, salt, oil, drugs, etc.

The co-operative movement, embodying production, consumption and credit co-operatives, has enlisted over 5,00,000 new members. In certain districts 50 per cent. of the population has joined the co-operatives. The populations of some villages have enrolled *en masse*. These great mass organisations maintain close relationships with the Foreign Trade Bureau, Food Department and governmental shops of the Soviets, and have received considerable aid from the Soviets in the finance and personnel.

The Food Department and Trade Bureau have registered great achievements in stabilising prices and in storage of rice. The co-operatives contributed greatly to the supplies for the Red Army as well as to the amelioration of the life of the toilers in the villages.

These achievements in the field of planned economy prove conclusively that the Soviets can build up a new economic order on the ruins of the old, as well as lead and organise the economic life of the masses.

These notes present nothing like a complete picture of life under the Chinese Soviets, but they may help to an understanding of the great movement that is changing China, and of the reasons why, as Mao justly claims, the Soviets have won the confidence of the masses.

W. M. H.

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BUREAUCRACY IN THE "CORPORATIVE STATE"

By

B. Buozzi

Since 1930 there has been a Central Committee for Corporations in Italy, but no corporations. Now this omission has been remedied, for on the 9th May this Committee decided on the establishment of 22 Corporations of Production. This machinery will include no less than 739 new "figureheads" (Mussolini incidentally called his parliament a "House of Figureheads"). This number is made up of 268 employers, 268 workers, 137 technical advisers and 66 representatives of the Fascist Party.

The Corporations have the duty, among others of drawing up rules for the uniform control of production, schedules of wages and salaries and rules for the arbitration of labour disputes. This does not mean, however, that these duties will be fulfilled in reality, even though they are much more modest than those which Giolitti, in the last liberal Government of the pre-Fascist era, wanted to ascribe to the Central Labour Council.

According to this law, the members of the corporations will be appointed by the leader of the Government; the corporations can only carry out their work subject to the approval of the leader of the Government, and their decisions have legal force only if approved by Mussolini. The construction of the Corporations, as laid down in the law of the 9th May, is really not of the slightest importance. If there are 50 or 22 Corporations, 1,000 or 739 members there is no real difference, since the corporative machine will only be set in motion when it suits Mussolini's purpose.

Nevertheless, one fact should be noted about the Act, and that is that it considerably strengthens the power of the Fascist party over the corporative organization; the independence of the Trade Unions is thus made more illusory than ever!

In accordance with the Act of December 1933, the corporations were to have been composed of delegates from the different Trade Unions (Mussolini has throughout the year carefully preserved the differentiation between organizations of employers and workers in "the lower categories," Ed.); and the Act also laid down that a Minister, an Under Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Fascist Party should be the President. The new Act completely reverses the former Order before it has even been put into practice. The Fascist Party has three delegates in each corporation, who are known by the beautiful name of "repre-

sentatives of the Interests of National Collectivism."

The Presidency of each corporation is the prerogative of the Minister of Corporations, i.e., Mussolini; and the Vice-President is always a delegate of the Party.

The establishment of these corporations goes hand in hand, as previously announced, with the reconstruction of the Trade Union organisations. The reconstruction has been planned by the Minister for Corporations and carried out without consulting the members of the Trade Unions. In order to avoid useless discussion, the Government as far back as the 1st January 1934 replaced the thirteen presidents of the Trade Union Confederations by thirteen "Government Commissioners", who have not the slightest trace of a Trade Union history and serve faithfully those who have appointed them.

The latest news reports that the number of Confederations has been reduced from thirteen to nine and that the four which have been dissolved have been incorporated in the remaining ones. This is one more proof that the Fascist Trade Unions, although possessing the right to levy contributions, are not allowed to hold meetings or conferences to discuss freely their structure and management. After the reconstruction, the Confederations were entrusted, as the Government said, "with the simple task of amalgamation, with due regard to the finances of the affiliated organisations". Malicious tongues indeed assert that their most important, if not their sole, duty is the organisation of espionage among the workers who are opposed to Fascism, (just as in Germany the Labour Front has been distributed among "wardens" who are to divide up the people inside and outside the factory into 'decent people" and "criminals" Ed.).

The "Lavoro Fascista", which is supposed to be the mouthpiece of the workers' Trade Unions, cannot disguise its embarassment. For some time it has been endeavouring to make the thing palatable to its beloved Trade Unions.On the 11th May, for instance, it wrote that "the establishment of the Corporations removes the Trade Union field of action from the relations of workers and employers to the much more important sphere of production. In the future it will be a matter not so much of laying down and defending the interests of the workers but of bringing labour into line with the requirements of industry"! This can mean nothing else than that the interests of the workers will be pushed even further into the background. It is not easy to disguise this fact if at the same time one wants to create the impression that the Trade Unions are to deal with higher things. Everyone knows that when questions of production are to be discussed, the leaders of the Trade Unions will be merely lay figures in the hands of the Government and the employers.

In order to hide the powerlessness of the Trade Unions, the "Lavoro Fascista" allows itself the luxury of indulging in a flood of threats against capitalism. It speaks of the "reorganisation of national industry which is directed against the citizens of the country", of the "necessity of bringing every undertaking within the framework of the corporations"; it wants to put the technique of work on one side "in order to bring about a really revolutionary reconstruction of industry".

We have all known for a long time how much weight may be attached to the phrases of Fascist marionettes.

On the 13th July 1933, in a sudden wave of honesty, the "Lavoro Frscista" played quite a different tune, and complained of the employers who, in spite of the co-operation which Fascism should have brought about, continued to "show the Trade Unions the door". On the 12th May it sadly reported that for this reason the Trade Unions "can only have a very limited range of activity" and that the refore "the only Trade Unions in the Corporations are those which can do without all direct contacts and merely play the part of humble petitioners or poor relations of the corporation".

The Fascist Trade Unions deserve no better fate! The leaders of the Trade Unions have joined with the capitalists to destroy liberty and with it the free Trade Unions and Works Councils. Now they are reaping the harvest which they have so effectively sown. The Italian example clearly shows to-day, if any more proof is necessary, that the only victims of the destruction of freedom are the workers!

8(a)

JUSTICE IN SOVIET RUSSIA.

"OUR Justice is open-a working class Justice. Our courts are not above society, but a living part of it" stated E. A. Smirnov chairman of the Moscow District Peoples Court in a recent interview on the treatment of lawbreakers in the Soviet Union. "Unlike capitalist countries," he continued, "Justice is not represented by a veiled woman and the treatment of lawbreakers is not a matter of punishing the offender, but rather of helping to make the citizen an active builder of socialism."

He pointed out that the Soviet system of treatment of criminals, which redirected their energies into useful channels, re-educated them and gained more brains and hands to build the new classless society.

"We do not make arrests of those charged with minor violations of the law," Smirnov continued. "Such persons are taken up by the militia and registered and permitted to go home. Should the matter be more serious and warrant a trial, then the offender is notified by mail when to appear in court. Serious violators of our laws are held by the militia, the maximum period of detention being a month, usually they are held from 10 to 20 days. During this time evidence is gathered and the offender brought to trial. Not always are the offenders detained until complete evidence is collected. They too are permitted to go home and then notified when to appear for trial."

At the trials, Smirnov remarked, the state prosecutor sometimes does not appear at all. If he does, an attorney for the defence is always present.

"It might interest you to know," he added, "that our attorneys," for the most part, belong to a collective. They have their own rules and fees, and violators who are being tried can pick their own attorney to defend them. If the offender has no money the court appoints an attorney, who serves free of charge. Usually the lawbreaker acts as his own defence counsel."

Only workers are permitted to act as jurors. "We have 25,000 workers in Moscow who are qualified to act as jurors. Forty per cent of them are women workers from factories. Our jurors are elected at factory meetings and serve in the courts six days a year. They are paid by their respective factories. Jurors that are elected are given a three-month course of training in court procedure and the fundamentals of our Soviet law at our regional courts. Annual conferences are held with all workers who have served as jurors, where questions of Soviet law in general are discussed, a review of the cases of the year is held and general questions of the Government are taken up. This procedure is true of all regions in the Soviet Union.

"As for our judges—they are not political appointees." He

smiled and went on. "Ninety per cent of our judges were former workers. They were selected from among the jurors and trained at our college of law from three to four years. Their only work is to preside at trials and their pay is 350 roubles a month. About 40 per cent of the judges are women. At traials the judges and two jurors preside.

"Not all courts are alike; that is, there are special courts to deal with various types of law breaking," he said in answer to a question. "There is a People's Court, which deals with questions involving the property of the Government; questions of ownership between various trusts. Then there is the Criminal Court which deals with crimes against the state; arson, robbery, murder and so on. And our Citizen's Court which concerns itself with violation of contracts, personal debts ownership of rooms and minor matters between Citizens. This is a broad classification of our types of courts. It is important to state here that no difference is shown in the treatment of lawbreakers as regards their rank of wealth. Our courts know no such distinctions and in passing sentence no allowances whatsoever are made for the amount of money the offender may have, nor is the treatment he receives in our houses of detention any different."

"It is not true that all political offenders are closely detained, "he pointed out." There are some who live at home and go out to work, but they cannot leave the city without permission, and are usually guarded. Others are sent away to work and cannot leave without permission. Those who prove to be faithful workers are not guarded and are permitted to go to and fro alone. They are paid for their work as are all law-breakers who are being temporarily detained and reeducated; yes, even those in the labour camps. Those who stay at the houses of detention do not pay for their keep. They receive less than trade union wages, but are given vacations with pay.

"In general," Smirnov concluded, "the attitude of the Soviet Government towards law breakers is not merely humanitarian, but realistic like our approach to all the problems that arise in the building of our socialist society. We try to rehabilitate apparent incorrigibles, not by confining them behind bars, but by putting them to socially useful labour and thus prepare them to take their place in normal society."

Smirnov was elected to the position as Chairman of the Moscow District People's Court at the All-Union Congress of Soviets. For 17 years he worked as a baker; then came the Civil War in which he took an active part. After the war Smirnov was elected a delegate to the Moscow Soviet and then became a member of the presidium. From there he was elected to the present position which he has held for 13 years.

(Courtesy The "Moscow News.")

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CRISES AND SPECULATION

By
E. R. A.

In most countries economic policy is still directed in accordance with the theory that fluctuations in business are an unavoidable phenomenon in economic development. A period of boom is always followed by a relapse into depression, and depression by recovery. This is a basic axiom of official political economy.

This is the same thing as if one were to say: a man who for a long time has enjoyed good health must inevitably become ill; when he has then been long enough ill, he will—through the operation of the same laws—become well again.

It cannot be disputed that until now economic development has taken place in this cyclical form.

But scientific economics is opposed to this conception. It shows that economic development could be accomplished without passing through this cycle, without any relapsing of business.

Not Recognised

Nevertheless, this economic theory has not yet found official recognition in any country. The "conservative" economic theory still persists. Its most characteristic mark is the view that economic crises are a necessary process of recovery.

This theory happens to coincide with the interests of a group of persons drawing profit from the alternating play of rising and falling prices of boom and depression—the "speculators."

A stable economic situation is not a fertile soil for speculative gains. Only the constant ups and downs, and downs and ups provide a possibility for profitable speculations.

Those who draw their incomes from the speculative exploitation of business fluctuations have, however, as little interest in a long, lasting state of economic depression as in a continuous and uninterrupted boom.

One can gather from this, that economic development does not always run in accordance with the wishes of those who profit from good business.

The present situation offers the best example of this.

For years the economic situation presents the uniform picture of an "economic ice-age." The crisis is not one of the ordinary kind, which—as in Pre-War times—brought only advantages to the speculators.

During its long duration the financial effects of the present crisis become unforeseeable and calculable. The speculations in a falling market become fraught with great risk, they lead to considerable losses, so that many banks (as the exponents of speculative finance capital) are only able to save themselves from collapse with the help of the State.

This critical situation endures until the frozen deposits can again be made liquid.

For this an economic revival is necessary, and one may well believe that finance capital really means what it says when it announces its readiness to co-operate in reviving business.

From pure reasons of self-preservation finance capital is compelled to work for the elimination of the crisis.

The longer a crisis lasts the *more difficult* it is to get out of it, at least, in an economic system which is conducted in accordance with the principles of orthodox political economy.

Revival in sight.

Although immense efforts have been made in England and America, economic recovery has not yet been effected. Nevertheless, a certain limited amount of success has been achieved, and unless all the signs are illusory those initial successes form the beginnings of an economic revival.

So long, however, as countries allow their economic policy to be guided by the principles of orthodox economic and monetary theory, it is very easy to predict the course that a business boom will take in these countries.

After a short period of economic prosperity a "crash" will again inevitably follow, another crisis and an unemployed army of millions, but with it will be associated the great opportunity for speculations in a falling market on the part of the finance capital.

The new crisis will again be succeeded by another return to so-called "normal" business activity, and so on—every succeeding crisis being more devastating and calamitous than its predecessor.

Under such circumstances it is really a misnomer to apply the term "normal" to these short periods of good business. For this so-called "normal" contains within it from the first the germs of the abnormal. "Good" business begets bad business—this is a factual paradox.

Price-level Factor.

Economic life can never be continuously "normal" until it ceases to be led by the unscientific and economic monetary theories which have hitherto held sway.

Normal economic activity cannot be secured until the average price level becomes relatively stable.

For if once this stability is assured the prices of the individual commodities are made stable.

There is, therefore, very much less inducement to speculative buying and panic selling. Speculation loses more and more the conditions of its existence and becomes an unremunerative business.

It is a fact that to-day the speculator thrives not so much from speculation in commodities as from speculation in money.

Therefore, by eliminating monetary fluctuations the most lucrative part of the speculator's business is completely cut out.

10(a)

PROPAGANDA FOR HITLER

HOW CHILDREN ARE DOPED.

FAIRY TALE.

[Even the bedtime stories in Germany to-day must be approved by the all-powerful Dr. Joseph Goebbels, director of Nazi propaganda, and censor for the nation.]

So every father was expected to make certain that St. Nicholas brought his children a copy of "Children, What Do You Know of the Leader?" as a Xmas present.

Told in the language of the immortal Grimm, the hero of these new bedtime stories, of course, is Adolf the Good, while his life story becomes another Arthurian legend.

The "simple" story of the War has a heart throb in every line, and throughout is the human interest strand commencing on that dread day when Adolf the Good was gassed by the naughty English ogres, who threw "dangerous bombs full of poisonous gases."

Story of War

The children are thus introduced to the "true" story of the War:—

Many years ago, before you came into the world, when your father was still a young man and your mother still a schoolgirl, Germany was a powerful, rich land. Whenever a German invented a machine, built a factory, constructed a ship, France, Russia, and England were envious. England was especially angry, saying; "But we will have the best ships."

And because they were filled with envy, "England and France and her other neighbors wished to kill Germany. But how can one kill a land? you will ask.

Ah, children, that is something terrible. They tried to do it through a war. They said: 'We will not allow Germany to be more beautiful than we. We will not allow Germany to be richer and greater and happier than we. We will kill her."

And so they placed their soldiers and cannons all round Germany to shoot at her. But our German soldiers were good and brave. Quickly they ran to the frontier and did not let in the enemy.

Many Battles

And because they had a good leader, General von Hindenburg ("You all know his name") they fought well. Then came the Italians and the Americans, and because altogether they could not beat Germany they brought black-skinned and brown-skinned men from over the seas.

Four years long this terrible war lasted. But our soldiers, under General von Hindenburg, won many battles, and did not let the enemy into the land."

Then a "wicked spirit" took possession of our land. It went whispering into people's ears: "Stop shooting. You'll never beat the enemy. Peace will then come."

Many listened to the "wicked spirit," who actually said Germans were guilty of beginning the war. "Naturally, that was a lie." But so many Germans were poor and tired that they believed anything.

Then the "wicked spirit" slipped into the munition factories, saying to the workers: "Stop making bullets and bombs.

"Then our soldiers cannot shoot, and peace will come." And poor Germany suffered like "all good spirits in the fairy tales, children."

Reparations

Thus the war finished. But it was "a bad end." The enemy said, "You have lost the war." The enemy became impertinent and cried: "You Germans are guilty of the war, and must give us some of your land. You must pay for all that we have lost in the war. You must give us money to rebuild our houses and factories, etc., etc. . . ."

Thus the story of Reparations is told. Germany could do nothing. For it had given in to the "wicked spirit" and made an armistice. Many soldiers wanted to fight on, but the enemy had taken the weapons away, and the united will was not there.

But while many shook their heads, and said we can do nothing, one man, a soldier, said: "No! It can't go on like this." He threw himself down on to his soldier's bed and prayed to "the good God."

"Dear God, have pity on our poor German people," he prayed. "They have forgotten that they are German. It is a shame what they allow to be done to them. And if things go on as they are doing, we shall be a poor people without a say in our own land. The foreigners will be masters over us and we must be their slaves."

"I Will Help"

And "the good God" spoke to him, "You shall save the Germans from this tragedy, and I will help you." Then the soldier stood up, stretched out his arms to heaven, and cried, "I will rid Germany of her enemies. I know that God helps me."

That soldier was Adolf Hitler. Then he was alone. But now the whole world knows him.

"His Germans love him. His enemies fear him. All the world knows that he is protected by God, with whose help he will save Germany."

11(a)

LIFE OF KARL MARX.

REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE.

The Communist League, which was formed in London in the middle of 1847, was soon to be engulfed in the revolutions that swept over Europe in the succeeding year. The growth of capitalism during the previous half a century had necessitated the destruction of all feudal cobwebs that still remained in Germany, France and other countries on the Continent and a serious economic crisis which occurred in 1848 served as the immediate cause for a revolutionary political crisis in all these countries.

The Second Congress of the Communist League, which was held in London in the end of 1847, authorised Marx to draft the Party programme and to publish it in the form of a manifesto. By the beginning of 1848 the mainfesto was ready.

The first edition of the historic document was published in London. It was a landmark in the history of the struggle of the working class for emancipation. It traced the history of the class struggle from its earliest origins and explained scientifically the tendencies in Capitalist Society and the revolutionary role of the working-class in its transformation to a Classless, Communist Society. It was a call to the workers to play their historic part. And it was at the same time a challenge to the existing order, a terrible reminder that its days were numbered. It unequivocally informed the ruling classes, that their disappearance was as inevitable as their rise. It ended: "The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a communist revolution! The workers have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.

Workingmen of all Countries, Unite!"

But during those hectic days, the Manifesto did not secure the attention it deserved. Even before its publication, revolution was sweeping over western Europe. In France a single demonstration of the workers in Paris sent the King (Louis Philippe) and his Government scouring out of the country and the Republic was installed amid universal rejoicing. The rotten monarchy collapsed like a house of cards by the mere touch of the revolutionary finger. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the French Republic issued an invitation to Marx (who had just then been asked to leave Belgium by the Belgian Government at the instance of the reactionary Prussian Government) to come to Paris. Marx established in Paris a new centre to direct the operations of all the Communist organisations. A new Central Committee was constituted with

himself as its head, to carry on organisational and agitational work among the German and French workers in Paris.

In the middle of March 1848, the revolution broke out in Germany also and Marx left for Cologne in April, along with Engels, Wolff and other Comrades. The *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* was started in Cologne to interpret the confusing revolutionary situation in Germany and to give a proper lead to the movement. It is stated that amongst all the journals of the time, Marx's paper alone showed a remarkably clear understanding of the events of the time and their historic significance. It attacked Prussian Junkerdom with all the vehemence of which Marx was capable. Consequently it became, as Engels said, "the most famous German organ of the revolutionary years". For the first time in working class history, there was a workers' uprising in Paris on June 23 (1848). And the *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* was the only paper which greeted the uprising and defended the Parisian workers against the calumniations of all the newspapers of the ruling class.

But two days later, the uprising had been quelled amidst terrible carnage and massacre of the workers. Writing on the June uprising, Marx said: "Not one of the countless revolutions made by the French since 1789 was an attack upon order, for they left untouched class rule, the slavery of the workers, bourgeois order—no matter how frequently the political form of this rule and this slavery was changed. But June laid hands upon bourgeois order. . . .

Upon the graves of the vanquished we cry; 'Woe to the victors!'"

The ruthless suppression of the Parisian workers marked the beginning of reaction in all countries. In Germany, Hungary, Austria and Italy everywhere the revolution retreated but not without a bloody struggle. Engels was in the ranks of the only revovolutionary army that fought. By September 1849, the last revolutionary stronghold had been taken. Reaction was once again enthroned. Such of those revolutionaries as had not been butchered or imprisoned by the reactionary Governments either went into hiding or fled.

Marx was not having an easy time either. Twice the New Rheinische Zeitung was dragged into Court for issuing appeals not to pay taxes and for (in the second case) calling for an insurrection. By skilful argument, however, Marx secured an acquittal on both occasions. By March 1849, the forces of reaction had triumphed in Germany not indeed without pitched battles with the workers in Dresden and the Rhine District. The Government were then emboldened to decree the permanent prohibition of the paper. The last number came out on March 9th. It contained 'An appeal to the Cologne Workers' which concluded with the words: "Everywhere and always, our last words shall be, the emancipation of the working class!"

The same issue contained a poem by the Proletarian poet Freiligarth entitled 'Farewell.' Freiligarth exhorted the workers not to lose heart as a result of the defeats sustained. The battle of the working class was a great struggle, in which defeats and the temporary triumphs of reaction were inevitable. The fight for emancipation of humanity was not to be abandoned, nor even to be pursued with diminished vigour, because of momentary defeats. The working class was bound to win in the end. There could be no peace for humanity till the class-less society was established. Freiligarth's last piece read:

"Farewell, thou world of
                    Struggle,
Farewell, ye contending hosts,
Farewell, ye smoke blackened
                    fields,
Farewell, ye swords and spears,
Farewell, oh world, but not for
                    ever,
They cannot slay the spirit,
                    brothers,
Soon I shall return and unsheathe my good sword again."

After the ban on New Rheinische Zeitung, Marx left Cologne for Paris. And even there reaction was rampant. Since the Paris demonstrations of workers, the bourgeois 'revolutionary' Government dare not keep Marx in Paris. It was suggested to him that he should go to Brittany, a French province with a particularly unhealthy climate, and remote from working class centres. Marx preferred to go to London, and there he worked and lived till his death.

Marx in London.

An endeavour was made in 1850 to reconstruct the Communist League. But the differences between its former members proved irreconcilable. While Mazzini, Ruge and others declared that the failure of the revolutions had been due to jealousies among the leaders, Marx explained the defeat as being due to the revival of trade and industry after the discovery of new gold mines in California. The Central Executive Committee of the League met in September, 1850, and thereafter it passed out of existence.

Marx was now living in London in dire penury. His family had increased but his income was uncertain, the only regular earning being what was paid for a letter which he was contributing to the **New York Tribune.** From time to time Engels, his devoted friend, was sending him something. But in spite of that, he was often in sore straits, and at one time in 1852, he had to pawn his only overcoat to buy paper for writing a pamphlet on a communist trial in Cologue.

In 1860, Engel's father died and he was able to send a larger amount. In 1869, he sold out his share of the firm in Manchester, which enabled him to offer Marx a regular sum of £350 a year. "On receipt of this news," writes Postgate, "and of the information that Engels could now devote himself entirely to revolutionary theory and organisation, Marx was so delighted that for once he drank too much."

There are, evidently, limits even to a revolutionary's sobriety!

Marx's London life was not unhappy. His wife, Jenny, was devoted to him and her great love was reinforced by profound admiration and sympathy for his ideals and his life-work. In those dark days of poverty she must have indeed been an invaluable and indispensable companion for him. She tended the revolutionary fire burning him, and by doing so has earned the eternal gratitude of all workingmen.

His children also—of whom there were altogether six, though only three girls survived—were deeply attached to him. Above all, the admiration of the working men whom he patiently and devotedly instructed made up for the loss of many other pleasures! Occasionally, when he did get some time which he could spend irresponsibly he did not miss it. There is a story told by William Liebknecht of Marx and others, "In an exuberance that was only partly alcoholic, breaking the street lamps in Dean Street at two in the morning and then fleeing from the police with an agility which was hardly to be expected in a famous philosopher and his admirers!"

But such occasions were very rare. Marx spent almost all his time in making studies of the economic and political condition, with a view to verifying and perfecting his theory of social evolution.

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WORLD DAY BY DAY

INLAND NEWS.

Oct. 1.—All India Socialist Party met at Benares under the presidentship of Mr. Sampurnanand.

Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon who was undergoing inprisonment for the last fourteen years was released to-day.

Oct. 4.—Prof. Shibban Lal Saresena president of the Cawnpore congress socialist party has resigned from the party.

Bombay, Oct. 5.—Dr. Ansari returned from Europe to-day.

Ahmedabad, Oct. 6.—The Gujarat Socialists have disapproved of Khaddar franchise.

Oct. 7.—Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose was brought to his ailing father. He is not allowed to interview any one else.

Bombay, Oct. 9.—Mr. Dwarakprasad a candidate of the parliamentary board for assembly has been disqualified by the Government.

Oct. 10.—The Working Committee of the Andhra Socialist party met and considered the resolution of the All India Socialist party at Benares and passed a resolution that all those who are members of the Socialist party and who are in the offices should continue to discharge their duties.

Delhi, Oct. 11.—Socialists party met and resolved that the resolution passed at Benares by the All India Socialist party was only recommendatory to the Bombay Socialist conference.

Calicut, Oct. 13.—Kerala Socialist conference was held at Calicut. Mr. H. D. Rajah presided.

Oct. 14.—The security order on the *Indian Express* was set aside by the High Court of Madras.

Madras Oct. 20.—The Political sufferers' conference met at Madras under the presidency of Mr. Bulusu Sambamoorthy and Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon opened the conference.

The subjects committee of the All India Socialist party met at Bombay. They considered several resolutions.

Oct. 21.—All India Socialist party met in a conference and passed several resolutions.

Bombay Oct. 23.—The working committee of the All India congress committee met at Bombay and after hours of deliberations a compromise was reached on the constitutional changes.

Oct. 26.—Indian National Congress was held at Bombay and Sjt Babu Rajendra Prasad presided.

Oct. 28.—All the amendments to the congress constitution brought by Gandhiji were passed in the open session of the congress. All the amendments brought by the socialists were defeated.

Oct. 31.—Babu Rajendra Prasad president of the congress has chosen the following members to the cabinet. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Syed Mahmood and Acharya Kripalani as Secretaries. Seth Jamanlal Bajaj as Treasurer.

Sardar Vallabhai, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, Mrs. Naidu, Sardar Sardul Singh, Dr. Ansari, Moulana Abdul Kalam Azad, C. Rajagopalachari, Gangadar Rao Deshpande, Pattabi Sitaramayya, Jairamdas Doulatram and K. F. Nariman to act for Jawaharlal Nehru.

Oct. 31—At a public meeting held at Bombay under the auspices of Independence of India League, the immediate release of M. N. Roy was demanded.

Jubbulpore Nov. 2.—Prior to the meeting of the Municipality of Jubbulpore to consider the question of reinstatement of Mr. Chirajilal Sharma as Secretary of the Municipality as against Mr. Nityendasila a civil disobedience prisoner, the District Magistrate apprehending breach of peace promulgated order under Section 144, prohibiting the public to enter the municipal premises.

The Government has instructed the local bodies not to employ in Schools teachers with communist leanings.

In Bombay presidency four Labour Unions have been banned by the Government of India.

Lahore, Nov. 3.—In connection with the Tonga drivers' strike the president of the Tonga drivers union and four drivers are charged for alleged rioting.

In connection with the Assembly Elections there was fight between the rival parties and as a result two people were injured.

Bombay, Nov. 7.—The seventeenth anniversary of the Russian revolution was celebrated tonight by the Trade Union Congress, the Independence League of India, and All India Red Trade Union Congress.

New Delhi, Nov. 9.—Three youths have been served with notices under the criminal Law Amendment act to quit Delhi within 24 hours.

Bombay, Nov. 9.—A public meeting was held tonight. A resolution condemning the Government for having banned the Labour Unions and calling upon the public to organise independent and free associations was passed.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Cuba, Oct. 2.—Martial law has been declared in Havana districts following the discovery of a communist plot to overthrow the government.

London, Oct. 3.—In the Labour party conference a move for socialisation of all industries in a future Labour Government was defeated.

Madrid, Oct. 5.—Socialists have proclaimed a general strike throughout Spain as a protest against the inclusion of three catholics in the New cabinet.

Oct. 8.—As a result of revolt in Spain the situation has become distinctly worse and 500 people were killed and 2000 injured.

Oct. 9.—King Alexander of Yugosalvia and M. Barthou, foreign minister of France were shot dead at Marseilles.

Berlin, Oct. 10.—The German ministers henceforth will no longer be owing allegiance to Reichstag but a law will be passed making ministers to owe allegiance to Hitler.

Oct. 31.—It is revealed that a number of spies on behalf of foreign power have recently been tried and sentenced to be hanged.

Nov. 1.—Two ministers have resigned from the Egyptian cabinet.

Belfast, Nov. 5.—A French Army officer was sentenced to a term of five years on a charge of selling official secrets to Germans.

Moscow, Nov. 7.—The seventeenth anniversary of the Revolution was celebrated throughout Russia with pomp and splendour.

Paris, Nov. 8.—The Doumergue cabinet has resigned and M. Flaudin has formed a cabinet with Laval as foreign minister.

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DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE AND DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES

ORGANISATION OF HAND-LOOM WEAVING

By Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu.

Cottage Industries vs. Organised Industries.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture drew pointed attention to the fact that the agriculturists in India, who formed the bulk of the population, had ample spare time at their disposal to pursue one or other of the small domestic and [illegible] industries to supplement their slender [illegible] their hereditary occupation of agriculture. They stated the problem in these words: "As agriculture in the greater part of India cannot offer employment for the whole of the year, the problem is to suggest lines of work which can suitably be undertaken by the cultivator or his family in their spare time." Among such village and domestic industries, the Royal Commission discussed the potentialities of the following industries: (1) the industries pursued by the village artisans; (2) the handloom, pottery and rope making industries; (3) sericulture; (4) poultry making; and (5) lac industry.

These industries, which still give work to a large number of people, are said to be mostly declining. In some quarters there is a conviction that energy and money spent on reorganising these industries will be wasted, for these cannot stand competition with organised factory industries. The Royal Commission on Agriculture were themselves very sceptical about the future of these industries and consequently there is no evidence in the Commission's report of any enthusiasm for their revival. Here is the Commission's conclusion: "Even with the aid of new ideas and assistance in training and marketing, the contribution which several rural industries can make in reducing the heavy pressure on the land is infinitesimal *and in the nature of things they cannot as a rule hope for ever to survive the increasing competition of organised industry.*" But a careful study of the available data about the existing condition of some of these industries, the causes that contributed to their decline in the past and the remedial measures that may be taken to reorganise them will show that this pessimism is unjustified.

Need for State's intervention.

Dealing with the causes that contributed to the deterioration of these industries, the Central Banking Enquiry Committee says: "There is little doubt that one of the main reasons for the decline of the cottage industries is the lack of interest taken by the Government in the past, at any rate up to 1921, in the fostering

and developing of these industries." The policy of the Government was one of non-intervention in the development of Indian industries except by way of some provision for technical and industrial education and collection and dissemination of commercial and industrial information. Since the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms in 1921, industries became a transferred department in charge of ministers in the provinces. The Montagu-Chelmsford Report distinctly said that "the Government must admit and shoulder its responsibility to the industrial development of the country." The meagre financial assistance given to the ministers for development and the limitations placed on their spending powers, among other causes, however stood in the way of any marked improvement in the matter of industrial development. Nevertheless, there has been a change in the outlook in regard to the duty of the Local Governments' responsibility to play an active part in the development of the industries in the provinces. But, this benevolent mental attitude is by itself not enough. The Provincial Governments must have active industrial programmes and pursue them with enthusiasm and vigour, if the surviving rural and cottage industries are not to become gradually extinct. It is pointed out in one of the reports that in Germany small scale industries employ about two-fifths of the population and 90 per cent of the industrial establishments and that those results were achieved by the State's economic policy in regard to State aid and supervision of those industries. Similarly the development of industries in the U. S. A., and Japan is due to the necessary and opportune intervention of the State. Without such intervention the advantages which a country may possess in regard to capital, labour and raw material will not by themselves avail. In regard to the phenomenal progress of the U.S.A., Professor Taussig says: "Rich natural resources, business skill, improvements in transports, widespread training in applied sciences, abundant and manageable labour supply, these perhaps suffice to account for the phenomenon. But, would these forces have turned in this direction so strongly and unerringly but for the shelter from foreign competition?"

Handloom Weaving

The most important of the Indian cottage industries is of course the handloom weaving industry. The Provincial departments of industries have realised the great importance of this industry to the people and have been trying to do something to arrest its decline and to organise it. Nevertheless, the industry has been declining and showing signs of its inability to withstand the growing competition from the Indian textile mill industry. Interest in this problem is now revived by the offer of the Government of India to find about Rs. 5 lakhs an year, for the next five years, from the central revenues, to help the Provincial Governments to organise handloom weaving in their provinces.

It may be interesting to know

the existing position in regard to handloom weaving industry in India, the nature of the handicap from which it suffers and the reason for the Central Government coming forward with offer of financial assistance to this industry. The Tariff Board estimated the number of handlooms in this country at about 2¼ millions and it is said that about 10 million people are still supported by this industry wholly or partly. The textile mill industry gives employment to about 4 lakhs of people and supports about one million persons. In the year 1933, the handlooms produced about 1700 million yards of piece goods, valued at about Rs. 37·46 crores, while the Indian Mill Industry produced about 2899 million yards of goods, valued at about Rs. 65·76 crores. Before 1910, the handloom were producing more cloth than power looms. Even in its present decadent condition, the handloom industry clothes a large section of the population and it supports ten times more people than the powerloom industry does. If the capital invested in the handlooms is compared with that invested in powerlooms, the former will be found to be an insignificant fraction of the latter. It is estimated that 1000 powerlooms for weaving dhoties and sarees cost about Rs. 5 lakhs; and these 1000 looms yield an average daily output of about 50,000 yards and give employment for about 500 weavers. If the same sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is invested on handlooms, it is estimated that the daily output of cloth will be 1,60,000 yards and the number of weavers employed in the process will be 16,000. The permanent or block capital invested on lands, buildings, machinery and motive power in the textile mills is colossal. In regard to cost of upkeep also, there is no comparison between the two. Compared with the huge sums spent on the upkeep of powerlooms in repairs, renewals, wastage, insurance and the like, the money spent on the upkeep of handlooms is negligible. Again, the handloom weaver is content with smaller wages than the worker in the textile factory, for life in the village is less costly than in the town and the supply of labour is more abundant in rural than in urban areas. Notwithstanding all these advantages on the side of the handloom weaving industry, the products of the handlooms have to be sold at prices higher than those of the mills. What is the reason for this disparity? It is not the greater economic efficiency of the powerloom.

Conflict between handloom and powerloom:-Need for internal adjustment.

It will be found on an examination of the question that schemes for the simultaneous development of the power and handloom industry side by side are somewhat difficult to work out. As matters stand at present, there is a clear conflict of interests between the powerloom and the handloom. Excise duty on the Indian mill-made cloth gave some economic advantage to the Indian handloom product over that of the powerloom product. The abolition of that excise duty and the imposition of duties on imported cloth and yarn placed the hand-

looms at a disadvantage, specially because the Indian mill-made yarn has become dearer to the handloom weaver than the imported foreign yarn before the levy of the import duties. The extent of the dependence of the handloom weaver on the Indian mill-made yarn will be evident from the following figures: Indian mills produce in a year about 950 million pounds of yarn; about 10 million pounds of it is exported and about 600 million pounds is consumed by the powerloom. The balance of 340 million pounds is purchased by the handloom weavers. The rise in the price of Indian mill-made yarn is not however accompanied by a corresponding rise in the price of cloth made on the mills with that yarn, while it is accompanied by such a rise in the products of the handlooms, which are obliged to buy that yarn at the prices fixed by the mills. The advocates of the development of handloom industry, therefore, urge that the real solution for this intriguing situation lies in making a suitable adjustment in the spheres of production of cloth on the handloom and powerloom or, as an alternative, in fixing a quota for the production of cloth by the mills. But any such arrangement should not relegate the handloom weavers to the position of those who cater to the clothing needs of only a section of the people or who supply only some kind of stuffs to the people which the powerlooms cannot economically produce. The proper solution, dictated by true national interests, will be for mills not to produce the varieties of cloth which form the bulk of the output of the handlooms. The problem that confronts us is that while Indian textile mills seek protection from the competition of cloth and yarn imported from outside, the Indian handloom weavers demand internal adjustment between the powerloom and handloom. It is feared by many competent authorities that in the absence of some such adjustment the handloom weaving industry cannot withstand the competition from mills in regard to the price of the cloth and may continue to deteriorate more rapidly than it did in the past, *pari passu* with the development and rationalisation of the textile mill industry.

Proposals for the adjustment of the spheres of production or fixing quotas have naturally not met with the approval of the mill owners in India. So, some less drastic suggestions were made to help the handloom weavers. One such suggestion was that a small cess of three pies per pound of yarn consumed by the powerlooms be levied to create a central fund for organising the handloom industry. In view of the fact that handlooms are the main purchasers of the Indian mill yarn the proposal was a reasonable one; nevertheless, it was not accepted by the mill owners. The proposals of the Madras Government to levy a cess partly on yarn manufactured in India and partly on yarn imported into India with a countervailing duty on both yarn and cloth, from the proceeds of which the handloom weaving industry may be reorganised, have been turned down by the Government of India on the ground that

the proposals trench upon central taxation. With effect from 1st May 1934, the Government of India revised the duties on imported yarn and cloth; yarn of British manufacture of counts above 50 s. pays 5 per cent *ad valorem* and non-British 6¼ per cent *ad valorem*. On counts below 50 s., yarn of British manufacture pays 5 per cent or 1¼ anna per pound whichever is higher and the non-British yarn 6¼ per cent or 1⅜ anna per pound, whichever is higher. The revised rates of import duty give no relief to handlooms which depend mostly on yarn supplied by the Indian mills. The Government of India, it is said, now propose to find from these customs duties about Rs. 25 lakhs to be distributed to the provinces during the next five years for organising the handloom industry. The country awaits with interest the proposals of the Government in this matter and the mode in which assistance will be given to the handloom weaving industry.

(*To be continued*)

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It's a joke, how these big boys
Fool them little, brainless guys—
Slick they do it—one, two, three— —
They may hire and can fire—
Oh my country, 'tis of thee,
Of thee I sing! And let it ring!
But it is no funny thing,
When they screw the breadbox higher;

Asses of stupidity!
FOOLS CRAZED BY cupidity—
I feel sorry for you, guys,
Of conceit and penny wise—
Full of pretext—use no brains,
No umbrellas, when it rains!

Like a jackass, that wont drink,
You guys can't be made to think,
That no longer you can fool 'em,
Nor for your schemes can school 'em.
If you keep 'em longer down
You will surely with 'em drown!
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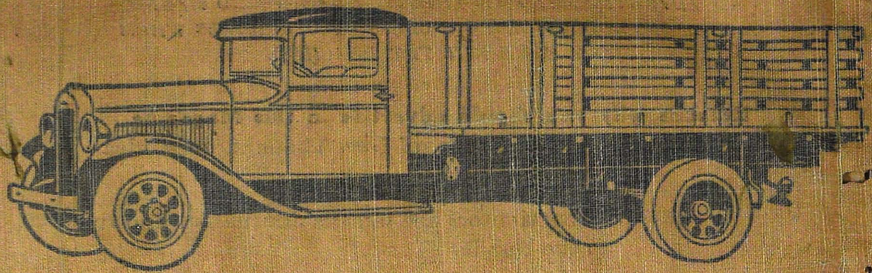

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